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Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Bolivia: draft resolution

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5]

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010 and 66/204 of 22 December 2011 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[6]

Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz", and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development",

Taking note of the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which was held on 18 April 2012 to commemorate International

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
[6] Resolution 37/7, annex.

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Mother Earth Day by discussing the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth system,

Noting the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[7]

Recalling the outcome document entitled "The future we want"[8] of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth system,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of statistical basic data under the three pillars of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous peoples' cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the third report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[9]

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to continue discussing the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth system;

[7] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] A/67/317.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Welcomes* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, by the Secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and, further, invites the Division to maintain and expand the website by gathering information and contributions on ideas and activities that promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and that are being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge;

5. *Recognizes* that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, notes that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and also recognizes that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature;

6. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

7. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work with other relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, experts and the academic community, as appropriate, both to identify new ways and means to overcome the limitations of gross domestic product with regard to sustainable development and to better measure the environmental degradation resulting from human activity;

8. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard requests the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, to launch a programme of work in this area, building on existing initiatives;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, as an input for the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

10. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Harmony with Nature".